The Northeast Arts District banners: Raising funds to replace what’s missing

The Northeast Arts District banners are in need of updating. Over a decade ago, 161 were installed on defining streets in the district.

Today, 98 banners are down due to weather or Xcel taking them down for pole repairs and other miscellaneous reasons. The Northeast Minneapolis Arts District has been working with the Logan Park, Sheridan, Bottineau, Holland Neighborhoods and the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce to help fund the replacement of the banners. On March 7 the Logan Park Neighborhood Association board voted to contribute $3,423 towards new Arts District signage. The Chamber of Commerce has written a grant to match funds of the neighborhoods. The Chamber has requested and should hear in April about $11,500 in funds for fabrication, hardware and installation. The total so far would replace a total of 50 banners of the 98 down.

The chamber will help facilitate the installation, permitting and mapping of the project as well, including coordination with the neighborhoods.

Vision Awards set for June 4

The third Bi-Annual Vision Awards is slated for June 4 at the Ritz Theater. Presented by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District board, the Vision Awards honor stakeholders who have provided leadership and commitment in the service of arts, artists, and culture in the Arts District. Join us for an evening celebration and stay for the afterglow at Rogue Buddha Gallery.

Art in Service to the Environment

Learn about artists whose work draws attention to environmental issues such as healthy water and soil at a PechaKucha Night 20 x 20 on Sunday, April 7 at 6 p.m. at Art Force, 1400 Van Buren Street NE, Suite 175. Free, donations welcome.

The audience was receptive and raised funds to replace what’s missing. The banners cost $225 each and $75 for installation for a total of $300 each. To totally reinstall all 98 banners would cost $28,400. With the much-appreciated help of the neighborhood organizations and the Chamber we will be much closer to our goal. If you are interested in contributing to the banners please contact the arts district through our website northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org.

—by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District Board of Directors

Indexing creative work & space

by Margo Ashmore

With the arts creating a way more economic impact than sports (9.2 times the size of sports sector revenues) the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber hosted about 40 business leaders March 27, to engage businesses to see and nurture the arts as a workforce which in turn enhances all other work.

Gulgun Kayim, Minneapolis director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, and geographer Brenda Kayzar, who contributed to the research, discussed The Minneapolis Creative Index. (Find a link on northmplsartsdistrict.org.) They mapped all the places creative work & space is happening in the city and its neighborhoods. The study examined the role of industrially zoned properties.

In the former warehouses and other attached homes, with only 13 percent of creative space, and in single family detached homes, with only 13 percent of all other work.

Women and people of color. “The study does not prove that women have reached pay equity in the creative sector,” they said. Also people of color are not proportionally represented in the creative work force, at 13 percent compared to being 17 percent of the population that is actively working or seeking work. The audience was receptive and asked some clarifying questions. The first Creative Index report was completed in 2013 and will continue to be updated about every two years.

Art and the Arts District

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